

fore before classifying it as this variety. I referred it however, to Mr. F. C. Lincoln of the Colorado Museum of Natural History, who advised that although not quite typical, its small size and general characters, unquestionably refer it to *medianus*.—E. RETT, *Denver, Colo.*

The Starling in Montgomery, Alabama.—A few evenings ago I was called to my telephone to identify a bird which had been blown into the yard of a farmhouse eight miles southeast of the city. Not being able to make a decision from the description given me, I suggested that the specimen be sent to my home. This was done the following day, and I immediately identified it as the European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), though I had never before seen one. Several others who have seen it, have verified my opinion.

The bird had been blown against the barn of Mrs. Frances Hagan of this county during a rainstorm on the night of January 14 and was found dead the following morning. It is apparently a full grown male. The plumage has a tendency in color toward green rather than purple but the upper neck and back are decidedly of the later color and the tan yellow spots are decidedly lanceolate. I have identified it as a male in winter plumage.

The specimen has been mounted and presented to the Museum of the Alabama State Department of Archives and History.—PETER A. BRANNON, *Montgomery, Ala.*

The Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at Portland, Maine.—Last summer several reports came to hand that the Starling was breeding at Stroudwater, a suburb of Portland. On tracing these reports it was found that they all emanated from one source, Mr. George Parker, a student in the Deering High School, and an earnest student of birds. On July 15, 1917, I visited Mr. Parker at his home in Stroudwater and he took me to a nearby orchard where we quickly found the Starlings in several small groups. Several of the groups flew to a point in the orchard and then across a field to another part of it and we were able to count nineteen, though there were undoubtedly more in the vicinity. Many of these were in brown immature plumage giving support to Mr. Parker's belief that four pairs had bred in the vicinity. His first observation (which he had noted in a diary) was December 27, 1916, of a group of five.

Though this is not the first time that the Starling has appeared in Maine in recent years, it is believed that this record may be of service in fixing the time of the permanent arrival of the bird in Portland.

One specimen from the colony has been preserved in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Museum of Natural History, Portland, Me.*

Yellow-headed Blackbird at Ipswich, Mass.—At Ipswich, Mass., September 17, 1917, I had under observation for about half an hour, a Yellow-headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*). It was in the plumage of the female.—FRANCIS BEACH WHITE, *Concord, N. H.*